

BLUE GRASS BLADE.

Vol. II.—No 23.

Lexington, Kentucky, Saturday December 5, 1891.

Subscription, \$2 a Year

Charles S. Moore
Editor

Capt. Ben Drake's "Chronicle of
"Charles the Mower and his
Wonderful Blade."

In this issue appears a long article written in the style of Chronicles, and that I have but recently found out was written by my old friend Capt. Ben S. Drake, of this city.

Capt. Drake is a Confederate soldier and a Democrat, but the bloody chasm between us is not so wide that we cannot most cordially shake hands across it. I saw it was a "ten strike" as soon as I read it, and would have published it in my paper that appeared first after the publication of the Captain's piece in the Leader of October 7, but it was too long for my paper I thought. But I have had calls for it by friends of the Blade, and for their sake and my own I republish it. I have not at this writing seen Capt. Drake since he wrote it, though I wrote him a note that I would shoot him on sight.

I have understood that he feared it might have hurt my feelings but I do not remember ever to have read anything in any Lexington paper at which I have laughed so much.

He scores it into me pretty nicely sometimes, but that is paying me in my own coin, and the wonderful preservation of historical accuracy that he maintains all through the whole eight chapters of his "Chronicles" demands that I shall take my share when my time comes.

Persons anywhere in the United States who have read the Blade for a year past, and especially those who read its fearfully sensational first issue, will recognize much of the accuracy of the history in the "Chronicles"; but citizens of Lexington who saw and heard much that took place that was never published in my paper nor in any other, nor indeed could have been, will be forcibly struck with the accuracy of the gallant Captain's account.

I am willing to be slightly victimized if it would afford others as much amusement as I think this piece has done.

It was written when the common supposition was that I had hung up the Blade.

RISE AND FALL

Of Charles the Mower
and His Wonderful
Blade.

The Trials and Tribulations
of a Modern Re-
former

Narrated in Chronicles
For Future Gener-
ations

To Read and Ponder Over—The
Strange Adventures of a Gifted
Scribe, Whose Hand was
Raised Against Every Man,
And Who Assailed Those Who
Were His Best Friends.

FIRST CHAPTER OF CHRONICLES.

1. And it came to pass in the days of Charles the Painter, who succeeded Claudius the Great, that there were murmurings and dissensions among the people.

2. And Charles the Ishmaelite was chief among the murmurers and dissenters.

3. And he gird his mantle about him, and walked among the people of the city, and did spy upon them, and did try to stir up more dissension among them.

4. But the people would not hearken unto Charles the Ishmaelite, and said, Behold, this man is a heathen; he is no good.

5. Then Charles the Ishmaelite became exceedingly wroth, and did cry aloud against Charles the

Painter and the people, and he did spy on Charles the Painter to find cause whereof he might accuse him.

6. But when he could find no fault in him whereof to accuse him before the people, his anger was greater than before.

7. Then Charles the Ishmaelite spake unto his wife, saying: Lo! Charles the Painter is an exceeding wicked man.

8. Inasmuch as he hath begotten a son Charles the Prince, who has been and is yet, as I verily believe, selling and giving unto the people certain vile liquor, whereby the people are becoming drunken.

9. And also he hath taken into his council certain other bad and wicked men, publicans and sinners, who for the purpose of gain and profit in filthy lucre, hath also sold to the people this vile liquor, whereby they are becoming drunken.

10. When Charles the Ishmaelite had thus spoken he was moved with much anger.

11. And he looked about him and sought how he might punish these men who had done him no evil.

12. And it came to pass on the sixteenth day of the ninth month of the third year of the reign of Charles the Painter,

13. That Charles the Ishmaelite did conceive a weapon wherewith to smite Charles the Painter and the chief priest and the scribes and the publicans, and all of the people who were drunken.

14. Charles the Ishmaelite had not money enough to pay for his weapon. So he called upon the chief priest of the city and the publicans and the money-lenders, saying:

15. Behold! I have in my hand a weapon wherewith I will smite all of the wicked people of the city and make them good, and cause them to cease from drunkenness. But my purse is empty, I have not to pay for this strange and wonderful weapon of my own invention. I pray thee, therefore, give me of thine abundance that I may go forth and do the people good.

16. And the chief priest, and publicans, and the money-lenders were deceived by Charles the Ishmaelite and gave him bountiful of their filthy lucre.

17. And the heart of Charles the Ishmaelite was made glad and he went on his way rejoicing, and saying:

18. These fools have given me the wherewith to pay for my weapon, the like of which no man hath ever seen before and no man will ever see again.

19. And on the morning thereafter it came to pass that Charles the Ishmaelite did take his strange and heathenish weapon and sally forth into the city.

20. And when the people did look upon this strange weapon they were sore amazed, and said one unto another: What manner of weapon is this?

21. Charles the Ishmaelite answered them, saying: Behold, it is a weapon of mine own invention, the like whereof no man ever held before, and no man brave enough, save me, in all the land can be found to wield it, for lo! it smites in front and rear, to the right hand and to the left hand, and oftentimes smites the smiter.

22. But I will fear not for my weapon is exceedingly sharp and long and bright, and for these reasons I call it my Blade.

23. And Charles the Ishmaelite did wield his Blade and did smite Charles the Painter and his son, Charles the Prince, and Charles the Great Counselor, whose surname is Rufus, because of his hair.

24. And he did also smite Joshua the Smith, who was also a scribe and wrote with a pen made from the wing of the Falcon.

25. And he did also smite David the Transcriber, and he did also smite all of the chief priests and all of the rulers of the people.

26. And he smote Ephraim the Money Changer, and his son William, who is also a money changer, did he smite.

27. And he did also smite the law-makers and the publicans. Yea, every one of these he smote with his Blade.

28. And some of them that were smitten were fearfully wounded, and others of them that were smote were sorely angered. But none of them that were smitten died.

29. And when the people saw the fearful havoc that Charles the Ishmaelite had wrought, and the wide swath he had cut with his Blade, they with one voice called him Charles the Mower, and by that name is he known to this day.

SECOND CHAPTER OF CHRONICLES.

1. And it came to pass on the morning, after all these things had happened, the chief priest and the law-makers, and the money-

lenders, and the counselors and the counselors, and the publicans, did gather themselves together in the temple.

2. And when they were set they elected one of their number to preside over them.

3. And they sent into the highways of the city and had Charles the Mower brought before them.

4. And when he came into the presence of the chief priest, and scribes, and rulers, and counselors, and teachers, and the publicans, and those whom he had smitten and those who were there assembled.

5. Behold he stood as a chained wolf in the presence of a band of shepherds and their flocks; and when he looked around on the multitude there assembled, behold no man was his friend, and he was sore afraid.

6. And when he who presided over them asked who would accuse him? Lo! every man was on his feet, and no one could be heard but for the tumult of the multitude.

7. But the voice of Hull the publican was heard above the tumult, saying:

8. It is I, Oh! Mr. Chairman, that do accuse him, for this is he that cometh to my inn and asketh me for money wherewith to purchase a weapon with which to smite the evil doers of the city, and lo! I gave him of my abundance, and see where he hath smitten me on the face.

9. And Charles the Mower opened his mouth and said unto Hull the Publican. Thou gavest me no money, but thou didst promise it.

10. And Hull the Publican, whose anger was very great, did unloose his purse strings and take therefrom ten pence and give them to Charles the Mower, saying: I will owe no man a cent. Thou art a bad and wicked man, but I will pay thee all I owe thee.

11. And Charles the Mower accepted the money, and said unto Hull the Publican: I will give thee a receipt.

12. But Hull the Publican said: Nay I will have none of thy vile writings near me.

13. And William, the son of Ephraim the Money-Changer, was exceedingly wroth because Charles the Mower had smitten many of his friends.

14. And he got upon his feet, and would fain have smitten him with his hands then and there, but the chief priest said: Nay, let there be no violence or strife here. And William desisted.

15. And when Charles the Mower saw that he had no friends in the vast assembly his heart was sore troubled, and he said unto them:

16. Verily, verily, I say unto you I would have done ye good, but ye would not have it. I will use my fearful weapon no more. I will suspend my Blade and return unto ye the money ye have given me.

17. But they with one voice said, Nay, we will have to do with thee no more. Go thy way. Thou art the worst man in the city.

18. And when the assembly was broken up Charles the Mower was much troubled and sought consolation in the highways of the city, and by chance it came to pass that Ephraim the Money Changer passed him by on the highway and spoke to him.

19. And Charles the Mower complained to Ephraim the Money Changer that William, his son, did abuse and spitefully use him.

20. And Ephraim the Money Changer said unto him:

21. Grieve not thy heart because of my son's anger. I have this day admonished him, yea, even William my son.

22. And the heart of Charles the Mower was made glad by the words of Ephraim the Money Changer and he went on his way rejoicing.

23. And as he ran along the highway he met Joshua the Smith, who also was a Scribe. And Joshua the Smith was exceedingly wroth at Charles the Mower, because Charles the Mower had smitten him and wounded him sorely.

24. So he opened his mouth and spake unto him saying: Hear me, oh! Charles the Mower, thou hast smitten me sorely. I who was thy friend, thou hast smitten.

25. And I now warn thee that I will not turn my other cheek unto thee, that thou mayest smite it also, but I say unto thee if thou shouldst with thine awful Blade smite me again, I will procure a shotgun heavy laden with powder and leaden bullets and other explosive and hard substances, and with said shot gun heavily laden, will shoot the top of thy head off.

26. Be warned in time, Oh, Charles the Mower.

27. And when Joshua had thus

spoken he shook the dust off of his feet against Charles the Mower, and took his departure.

27. And again was Charles the Mower sore afraid, and complained bitterly that those whom he had smitten with his Blade sought to slay him, but he repented not.

THIRD CHAPTER OF CHRONICLES.

1. Now, it came to pass that after all these things had happened that Charles the Mower fled into the wilderness.

2. And when he was there he hunted up his wife and spake unto her saying:

3. Lo! I have fled from the city into the wilderness to escape from mine enemies, who seek to slay me because I smote them with mine invention The Blade.

4. And because thereof, many that I loved, and smote because I loved them, have become mine bitter enemies and seek to slay me.

5. Wherefore am I exceedingly afraid and have fled into the wilderness, where mine enemies can not find me.

6. And I will wield my strange and wonderful weapon no more. I will suspend my beloved Blade. I will make no more war on my friends, but will become a hewer of wood, a drawer of water and a tiller of the soil.

7. And when he had thus spoken to his wife he rent his clothes and wept to show his great concern.

8. Now the wife of Charles the Mower was an exceedingly good woman who walked in the fear of the Lord, and she was far wiser than Charles.

9. And when she saw that he wept, she had compassion on him, and opened her mouth and spake unto him, saying:

10. Thou knowest that for these many years have I loved thee, and been unto thee a true and faithful wife.

11. Thou knowest that I did beseech thee to be careful with thou smotest with thy Blade, for it is a fearful weapon and wonderfully made.

12. My heart goes out to thee in thy sorrow, oh, my husband, and because thou art so sorely distressed will I help thee to wield thy Blade.

13. But thou must not strive to wield it alone or when I am not near thee.

14. If I see that in thine anger thou wouldst strike too heavy a blow, I will put forth my hand and stay the blow, that it fall not too heavy on thy victim.

15. If I see that in thy blindness, thou wouldst strike the innocent, I will stay thy hand, that the innocent may not suffer.

16. And when Charles the Mower had heard these words, there came a great gladness in his heart, and he would fain have fallen on his knees and worshipped his wife, for he was a heathen, but she would not have him do so.

FOURTH CHAPTER OF CHRONICLES.

1. And on the morrow Charles the Mower mounted his ass and rode into the city; and he sought the chief priests, and rulers and publicans and all those whom he had smitten, and told them of the things his wife had spoken to him.

2. And the chief priests and rulers and publicans said among themselves: His wife is a good woman and walketh in the fear of the Lord; surely, we should not fear this strange weapon if directed by so good a woman.

3. And they took Charles the Mower by the hand and made friends with him and gave him silver, and gold, and greenbacks, wherewith to keep his Blade bright that he might punish the wicked in the city.

4. And again Charles the Mower sallied forth into the city to smite the wicked and those who made themselves drunken.

5. And when the chief priests and rulers and publicans saw that he smote only the wicked and smote them slightly, they said one unto the other:

6. Surely this strange invention is a wonderful weapon, and will do much good in the land. See, Charles the Mower no longer smites us.

7. And for many days, with his wife by his side did Charles the Mower go through out the city and in highways smiting only the wicked and doing much good.

FIFTH CHAPTER OF CHRONICLES.

1. Now there was in the land at this time divers strong-minded women. They wove not, neither did they spin.

2. But they were dissensions and walked not in the fear of the Lord, and refused to do the things the Lord had commanded them.

3. And they assembled themselves together and did cry out in a loud voice that they should be rulers and judges of the people, instead of the men, who had become drunken.

4. And they declared that they would no more wear petticoats, but would wear masculine habiliments, they would cut their hair short, and no more decorate their heads with bird wings, flowers, and other vanities.

5. They also declared in a loud voice that they would not obey their husbands who had become drunken, and that they would not obey the laws of the land that were made by men who had become drunken.

6. And they declared that they would ride their horses even as the men do. Yea, they would ride astride of their beasts.

7. And many other foolish things did these women, who walked not in the fear of the Lord declare they would and would not do.

8. And the fame of Charles the Mower and his wonderful and fearful invention, the Blade, spread throughout all the land, so much so that these women who walked not in the fear of the Lord heard thereof.

9. And they wrote many long epistles to Charles the Mower wherein they flattered him and made him believe he was a greater heathen than Ingorsoll.

10. And they visited Charles the Mower in his den in the city and did pat him on the cheek, and did cajole, and in many ways flattered him.

11. And they said unto him with one voice: Be thou our champion, oh! Charles the Mower, and with thy wonderful and fearful invention, the Blade, champion our cause.

12. Go forth in thy might, and with thy wonderful and fearful invention, the Blade, smite every man in the land who will not give us our demands, and smite also every man who has become drunken.

13. And smite thou also every man who maketh strong drink or selleth the same. Smite the law-makers until they let us make the laws.

14. Yea, smite the rulers until they let us rule the land, for behold we are wise; we drink no strong drink whereby we may become drunken.

15. And Charles the Mower hearkened unto the voices of these women and reasoned with himself thus:

16. Saying: Behold! My wife is far wiser than I, and thus I know all women are wiser than men. I will be their champion.

17. And when he came into the presence of his wife he told her what he had promised to do for these women, who were heathens, and walked not in the fear of the Lord.

18. And his wife warned him to have nothing to do with these women, and besought him not to champion their cause with his wonderful and fearfully made Blade.

19. But Charles the Mower would not hearken unto her, and said unto her: I know that thou art wiser than I, and for this reason I am constrained to believe that all women are wiser than men.

20. And if thou art wiser than I, art not ten women wiser than thou? I will be guided by one woman no more, for lo! I have ten to guide me.

21. And when the wife of Charles the Mower heard him speak thus she was sore distressed, and wept many bitter tears.

SIXTH CHAPTER OF CHRONICLES.

1. And on the morrow Charles the Mower did sharpen up his wonderful and fearfully made Blade and did go forth into the land and smite the people as these heathen women had directed.

2. He smote the Great High Priest at Washington and all his counselors, he smote the senators, yea, even Joseph with the Iron Jaw did he smite, and he smote William of the Silver Tongue.

3. He smote the law-makers at Frankfort and the high priest who lived there then; yea, even Simon he smote severely.

4. And he smote the chief priest of the city where he lived, and the rulers and counselors, and the teachers in the synagogues, and the teachers in the schools, and Charles the King, and Charles the Prince, and Charles Rufus the Great Counselor, and he smote his friends and his neighbors. All these and many more he smote and sorely wounded with his wonderful and fearfully made Blade.

5. But none of those who were smitten did die thereof.

6. Now, when the people saw that Charles the Mower was again on the war path, and did seek for, and take many scalps, they did not assemble themselves together again in the temple.

7. But they sought him in the highways and byways of the city, they sought him in his den, in the city and in the wilderness, and many of them who sought him would fain slay him.

8. But Charles the Mower had

been privily warned that the people sought to slay him, and he fled into the wilderness in a desert place in the far away land of Russell and found him a cave, and did hide himself therein from the people who sought him.

9. Now while hid in the cave he felt no fear of his enemies, but he could not wield his wonderful and fearfully made Blade while hid in the cave.

10. So he hired two maidens and put them in his den in the city, and wrote them each week long letters instructing them in the use of his wonderful and fearfully made Blade and telling them who to smite.

11. And from his cave afar off even in the land of Russell did Charles the Mower smite the people, and wound them sorely.

SEVENTH CHAPTER OF CHRONICLES.

1. But Charles the Mower was not satisfied, inasmuch as he could not with his own eyes behold the fearful havoc being done by his wonderfully made Blade.

2. And his heart was troubled within him to know what the people said about him.

3. And he sent two spies into the city to spy upon the people and find out what they did say about him.

4. And the spies made their way into the city and did spy upon the people thereof, and talk with them in the highways and in the byways, and even in the Temple and synagogues did the spies go and spy upon the people.

5. At the end of many days they returned into the wilderness, even unto the land of Russell, where they did seek the cave in which Charles the Mower was hidden.

6. And when they had found him they opened their mouths and spake unto him, saying:

7. We have been into the city, as thou didst command us, Oh! Charles the Mower, and we did spy upon the people therein.

8. We did spy upon them in the temple and the synagogues, in the highways and in the byways of the city, and in all other places therein.

9. And we heard many of the people therein say many wicked things against thee and thy wonderful and fearfully made weapon, the Blade.

10. Some of the people that spake against thee are persons of influence and in high authority. And these people did say unto us and unto one another:

11. This man is a wicked man, and smites us with his wonderful and fearfully made weapon, the Blade, and wounds us sorely.

12. For which we have given him no cause. Therefore will we gather ourselves together and go into the wilderness and seek him and slay him.

13. Yea; even into the land of Russell will we pursue and hunt him, and when we have found him we will slay him.

14. And destroy from the face of the earth, which it polluteeth, that wonderful and fearfully made weapon, the Blade.

15. Now when Charles the Mower heard all these things that the spies said to him, he was sore afraid, and his knees smote together and his teeth did chatter in his mouth.

16. And he smote his breast and wept.

EIGHTH CHAPTER OF CHRONICLES.

1. Now when Charles the Mower recovered somewhat from his fright, he opened his mouth and spake unto his spies, saying:

2. Go ye back into the city, and when ye are there seek out my den and to the maidens therein you shall say,

3. Thus sayeth Charles the Mower: Go ye unto my banker and he will pay us all owing ye, then depart from out of the city, for I fear the people will do you harm.

4. And when the maidens are safely out of the city say to the people that I will suspend my Blade, and they will see and shall fear my wonderful and fearfully made weapon no more.

5. When the spies had done as Charles the Mower bade them, the maidens went unto the banker and received their pay and departed from out of the city.

6. When the people heard what the spies told them Charles the Mower had said they were exceedingly glad, and did offer sacrifice in the Temple and in the synagogues and even in the inns and public houses there was great rejoicing.

7. And the people did cry out with a loud voice saying: Rejoice, for we will no more be smitten by Charles the Mower with his wonderful and fearfully made weapon, the Blade, therefore, let all the people rejoice.

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